Soundings

News and Information from
The Northwest Washington Synod

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Volume 19, Number 4 April 2002

A Word From The Bishop, Wm Chris Boerger

"But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"

Romans 10:14,15 NRSV

No, It Is Not A Rumor... There Is A Pastor Shortage

The latest *Lutheran* has a series of articles on the call process. That aspect of the Synod's life has been the chief priority of my term in this office. For the congregations that have completed this process and installed new pastors, the next chapter in their history has begun. For those still in the process, there is a mixture of dreams, fears, hopes, and frustrations. The Synod and the Synod Office can be the source of both the positive and the negative.

There is a real shortage of ordained clergy. This is not rumor and it is not just in the Midwest. The rumor of hundreds of pastors wanting to move to the Northwest Washington Synod is false. We have a file drawer half full of mobility forms from inside and outside the Synod. Many of these pastors do not have the skills identified on the pastoral profiles presented by the call committees. Some of these pastors bring salary and benefits packages beyond the means of the congregations in call process.

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Continued from page 1--A Word from the Bishop

Pastor Shortage

The problem will get worse. I have frequently said that, on my desk when I moved into this office was a graph which showed that 53 percent of the active clergy of this Synod are age 50 or older. That means that in 15 years we can assume that over half of the current pastors will be retired. This past February the assignment of candidates showed 185 candidates available for first call. This is 34 percent of the number requested by the 65 synods.

How shall we deal with this reality?

First, pray. Jesus instructed the disciples to pray for laborers in the field. We need to follow that command.

Second, encourage those in your congregation who have been gifted by the Holy Spirit with the skills for ministry to listen for that call. As I have mentioned in previous columns, I first considered the call to ministry when my kindergarten teacher at Trinity Lutheran School, Marysville, Ohio, told of the children in Africa who did not know about Jesus. I went home and announced that I was going to be a missionary. While the location and the focus of ministry changed over the years, the call to serve in the church was planted early in my life. We need Sunday School teachers, friends, and family members who will plant this seed in the young and the old.

I am not optimistic that the reality of the availability of clergy will change for the better in the next six years. This will continue to be a focus of my ministry. The effect that it has on the call process will be exaggerated as we face more retiring clergy.

This is a hard word for some of our pastors. Some desire to move, but the congregations have defined their new pastor in such a way as to exclude these pastors. How can we have so many vacancies and not see more mobility among the current pastors? That is a question I face regularly. As the gatekeeper to the call process, I know the expectations that are there from clergy and from congregations. Add to this the sloppy way we handle mobility for associates in ministry and diaconal ministers and we have a situation that breeds mistrust.

"Encourage those who have been gifted by the Holy Spirit..."

Jan Nesse is chairing a task force looking at our call process. Please respond when that task force asks for input. For pastors, remember that self submittal for consideration for call is permitted in our current process. For congregations, be very clear in your profile definitions of what are important qualities you desire in your next pastor. For all of us, let us pray the Holy Spirit's guidance of our call processes and of the preparing and training of those who today and those who tomorrow will serve Christ's church.

Northwest Washington Synod Information

Congregational Report Forms Due

The Annual Congregational Report orms were mailed to all congregations by ne ELCA in Chicago. The completed orms were due to the Synod Office by **ebruary 15, 2002**.

There are two ways to file your nnual congregational report. You may omplete the hard copy you received from ne ELCA and mail it to the Synod Office, r you can file electronically. To do so, go o the ELCA Home Page at www.elca.org nd select the item "File 2001 ongregation Report". You must key in our congregation I.D. number and assword, which are printed at the top of our "A" Form. (The Synod Office does ot have a list of these passwords, so you ust rely on the hard copy you received om Churchwide.)

ubmitting Resolutions to he 2002 Synod Assembly

At its January 19 meeting the Synod ouncil set April 1 as the deadline date for eceipt of assembly resolutions in the ynod Office. Any member in good tanding of a congregation in the orthwest Washington Synod may submit resolution to the 2002 Synod Assembly. ou received the resolution form in last onth's Soundings. If you need an dditional copy, please download the form www.lutheransnw.org/Assembly2002/ dex.

May Bishop's Convo

The Spring Bishop's Convo will be held on Ascension Day, May 9. We will gather at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Alderwood Manor, at 8:30 a.m. for worship, followed by the day's program, and conclude with lunch.

In the program, *Safe Haven for Children - Reducing the Risk of Abuse in our Churches*, we will look at what the gospel says about abuse and our response to it. We will hear from speakers who will present information about the occurrence of abuse and the damage that results. And, we will hear from a panel of pastors and lay leaders from our congregations who will offer ideas on developing policies and procedures to reduce the risk of abuse.

You are invited to bring with you someone who will provide leadership in developing and implementing safe child policies and procedures in your congregation. Watch for registration materials in the next few weeks.

Synod Committees

Synod committees such as the World Hunger Committee, the Board for Outreach and Evangelism, the Finance Committee and the Communication Committee need additional members to ensure that the work of congregations and the Synod continues. Take a look at page 6-9 in the Synod's directory for the full listing. For more information contact the Synod office at 206-783-9292, 1-800-244-6997 or email at nwwasynod@qwest.net.

Life Together: Listening, Learning, Living

2002 Synod Assembly

Mark your calendars! The 2002 Northwest Washington Synod Assembly is scheduled for Friday, June 7, and Saturday, June 8, at Trinity Lutheran Church in Lynnwood.

This year's theme is: *Life Together: Listening, Learning, Living*. The theme will be centered around the topic of homosexuality. This was chosen because of the two resolutions that were passed at the 2001 Churchwide Assembly. (For more information, please go to the Synod's website at www.lutheransnw.org/Assembly2002/index.)

Chair of this year's Assembly Task Force is Steven Chapman, member of Central in Seattle. Steve can be reached at 206-322-3477 or email at chinadad@hotmail.com.

The 2002 Northwest Washington Synod Assembly Registration Packets were mailed in early March. All forms and additional Assembly information can also be found on the Synod's website. **Deadlines are as follows**:

- **Resolutions—April 1**
- **Nominations—April 8**
- **Display Requests—April 22**
- **Committee Reports—April 22**
- **Registration Forms—April 22**

Task Force members who are working with Steve Chapman are: Donene Blair (Synod Executive Assistant), Sherianne Caldwell (Luther Memorial, Seattle), Fred Chrysler (Trinity, Lynnwood), Ed Gustafson (Maple Leaf, Seattle), Lyle Kellogg (Peace, Silvana), Bill Kirtlin-Hackett (Holy Cross, Everett), Claudia LaFollette (Burlington, Burlington), Rev. Eldon Olson (St. James, Seattle), Kathy Ostlund (Our Saviour's, Everett), Margit Peiffle (Synod Communications Specialist) and Cheryl Wolff (Trinity, Everett).

Thank you to the task force and to all the volunteers who are working so hard to make this year's Assembly a success.

Last Chance To Opt Back In To Social Security

The two year window granted by Congress to opt back into the Social Security program is almost over. Clergy wishing to take the opportunity to re-enter the Social Security program must do so by April 15, 2002.

For more information, see www.elcabop.org/benefit_plans/taxes_housing/reentry_window.asp.

Questions About Your Pension

The Board of Pensions is pleased to participate in synod assemblies. In addition to displaying information materials, ELCA Board of Pensions representatives will meet individually with plan members and other assembly attendees, and will be more than pleased to provide plan members with an on-the-spot pension estimate. Please stop by the Board of Pensions' table during your assembly and visit with our representative.

Connecting With Our Neighbors

News From the Synod's Anti-Racism Committee

One of the main objectives of the Anti-Racism Committee is to help us all learn how to connect with and engage the congregations of our Synod in having dialogues on race. This can happen either within the congregation itself, with other congregations, or with community groups that have been or are being affected by racism and white privilege.

The Anti-Racism committee wants to talk with interested congregations about the parameters and framework of such dialogues. This committee is able to suggest names of trained and experienced facilitators who are either from within our denomination, from another local denomination, or from the community. If you are interested, please leave a message at Lutheran Public Policy Office (206-694-5772).

The committee is also in the process of compiling a list of resources for congregations or individuals to use for study, discussion, outreach, or involvement and action. A couple resources include: The Lutheran Human Relations monthly newsletter; the Commission for Racial Justice of the Church Council of Greater Seattle; Stacy Kitahata, ELCA Region One resource person for multicultural ministry; and the NW Colors magazine. A full listing will be mailed to every congregation sometime after Easter.

Here are some local issues/events/resources for congregations to think about:

- Tierra Nueva del Norte ministries in the Skagit Valley—Farmworkers in our midst; what does this mean for our congregation?
- Who 'owns' the Snoqualmie Falls?—What can we learn from the Snoqualmie? Can we be partners for justice?
- The descendants of Chief Sealth (the Duwamish) are here in our Synod without a home and without federal recognition. What does this mean for our congregation?
- Does the concept of 'Sacred Land' have meaning for our congregation?—Come and learn about some current 'sacred land' issues in a documentary film called *In The Light of Reverence* beginning at 10 a.m. on Saturday, May 18, at Seattle University.
- Racial Profiling—What does this mean for the 'people of colored communities' in our Synod and for the outreach mission of our congregation? Pat Champion (Gethsemane-Seattle) would love to hear of your interest for a speaker or if you are interested in becoming involved. Leave a message for Pat at 206-682-3620. (Pat serves on the Seattle Human Rights Commission and the Racial Profiling Task Force.)
- What does the phrase 'Black Reparations' mean for the African-American community and for the churches in our synod?—There is a Seattle group willing to come and share their experiences with your congregation.

If you have any questions or comments about the Synod's Anti-Racism Committee, please email the committee using Paul Benz's email address at pbenz@lscnw.org.

State Advocate's Corner

by Rev. Paul B. Benz, Director; Lutheran Public Policy Office

As I sit down to write this month's column I don't know if the state legislature ended or not on March 14. So, I decided to focus on a legislative body that runs on a longer, more sustainable schedule. This legislative body resides in the 'other Washington' and the topic is Welfare Reform or TANF (Temporary Aid to Needy Families).

Congress is currently 'reauthorizing' our nation's new welfare program. In 1996 Congress 'revamped' our nation's welfare program from AFDC (Aid to Families with Dependent Children) to TANF. TANF gives families a five-year time limit to get off of welfare—this is the year it expires (on August 22).

The current focus/strategy of advocates from the religious community and human service organizations is to encourage people to advocate for legislation that will best help people get out of poverty, and not just off of the welfare rolls. The reason for this focus is because you can get off of the welfare rolls with a minimum wage job, which does not have benefits. But, unless you have a liveable wage job with benefits the probability is very high that the person and the household he or she belongs to will remain in poverty.

The three main support systems that are needed in order for households to rise out of poverty are: childcare, transportation, and education/job training. Please let your congressional representative know that these are the three critical areas that need to be **sufficiently and fully funded**. If our federal government supports these three areas, it will make more dollars available for states to assist in these areas as well. Please call your representative in Washington, D.C.; or you may call, email, or write to your district office. (Writing to D.C. is still not encouraged.)

Five resources I encourage you and your congregation to use are:

- *Washington Working Families Campaign 2002* is a statewide coalition working on this reauthorization process in Congress. Lutheran Public Policy is a member of this coalition. The campaign is organized by congressional district. The coordinator is Julilly Kohler-Hausmann, P.O. Box 31151, Seattle 98103, 206-694-6794, or www.povertyaction.org.
- *Hunger No More—Decisions 2002*. A wonderful four-session Bible study/ action packet for congregational adult education/small group settings. Produced by an interfaith coalition of which the ELCA was a participant. Available at the LPPO office or by calling the ELCA Resource Center at 1-800-638-3522, ask for the World Hunger Appeal office.
- This year's focus for *Bread For The World Offering of Letters* is poverty/ TANF reauthorization. Bread for the

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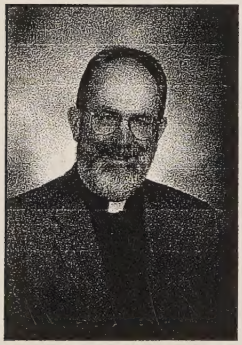
The Spirit

Volume 19, Number 4 | News for the congregations and their members of the Northwest Washington Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America | April 2002

Our Synod Elections
by Bishop Wm Chris Boerger



Among the various items for decision at this year's Synod Assembly, we will be holding a number of elections. One half of the Synod Council, all of the members of the 2003 Churchwide Assembly in Milwaukee, the Vice President of the Synod and the Secretary of the Synod will be elected at this assembly. Last year's election was the focus of much energy and discussion in the months prior to our gathering. This year's elections are every bit as important, if not more important, in determining the direction of the Synod.

Kim Unti has announced that she will not be a candidate for re-election as Vice President. I want

Interfaith Response to Homelessness
by Bill Kirlin-Hackett, Interfaith Task Force to End Homelessness

In the 1990 ELCA Message on *Homelessness: A Renewal of Commitment*, it states, "As long as there are people without housing, Christians who have dwellings are called upon to assist homeless persons to provide for their basic needs...People are working to provide transitional and permanent housing, including programs that encourage and support home ownership. What does your congregation do? What might it do?"

With that purpose in mind, a coalition of persons of faith sponsored a day long event in April 2001 at St. Mark's Cathedral in Seattle that was called, "Creating the Political Will to End Homelessness."

From the Political Will event two teams were created. The first team is the ***Committee to End Homelessness in King County***. It is the hands-

Here 'n There

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Alderwood was recently honored with a *Partners in Life Community Service Award.* The congregation received the award for its 15 year commitment to the health and welfare of our community through its quarterly Blood Drive. Gloria Dei was recognized for making this a community event, with a high percentage of repeat donors who are provided a reminder phone call, a welcoming community atmosphere, delicious treats, local advertising and a spirit to make this a special experience. Congratulations to Nina Johnson, Blood Drive Coordinator, and for all for the volunteers

On Friday, February 22, **Renton Lutheran Church in Renton** joined Saint Luke's Episcopal and Saint Anthony's Roman Catholic at Saint Anthony's for a soup supper and the Stations of the Cross. After suppper, Dr. Karim Abdullah and Dr. Joynce Carey gave presentations with time for questions and answers, about the Muslim faith.

On March 3, **Rev. Paul Benz,** Director of Lutheran Public Policy Office of Washington State, lead an adult forum and preached at both services at **Kent Lutheran Church in Kent.** He shared news about the ELCA Social Statement for Peace in God's World, World Hunger and the ELCA Stand With Africa Campaign, concerns about state level cuts in health and human services and much more.

As we continue to hear and read in the media about the trouble in the Middle East and Jerusalem, please join in the **ecumenical prayer vigil** for the Christian communities in Jerusalem, for all those who are suffering in the Holy Land, for Palestinians and Israelis, and for peace in the Middle East and the world.

Organized by state, the vigil began in Alabama and New York the First Sunday in Advent, December 3, 2000. The vigil will continue on the same day each month in each state until the violence in the Middle East ends and all can celebrate a just and lasting negotiated resolution to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. **People in the Northwest Washington Synod are invited to focus on the Middle East in their daily prayers on the 18th of each month.** For more information about the prayer vigil or about Jerusalem and the Middle East, go to www.loga.org.

Camp Lutherwood and Retreat Center in Bellingham has some wonderful summer camp programs for children. Check out their website at www.camplutherwood.org.

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The Churchwide Assembly is the highest authority for the churchwide organization. We do not know all the issues which will come before this assembly, but we will elect our members of this 2003 assembly this year at our assembly. I was privileged to be a member of the last churchwide assembly and would consider allowing your name to be considered for the next assembly. It is a time to be the church on the national level and to see all that the ELCA is doing.

Please pray for our Synod Assembly. Pray for those who prepare it, those who come to it, and the work that we will do together.

The 2002 Northwest Washington Synod Assembly will be held Friday, June 7, and Saturday, June 8, at Trinity Lutheran Church in Lynnwood. For more information, go to the Synod's website at www.lutheransw.org/Assembly2002.

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Information for the May 2002 issue of *The Spirit* is due to the Synod Office by Monday, April 1. Congregations are encouraged to copy *The Spirit* and include it in their own newsletters. *The Spirit* can also be downloaded from the Synod Web Site.

Care Focus

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Study Guide

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past four years. Kim has been [illegible]
Synod from the beginning of our life together. She has brought organization, commitment and regular gifts of candy treats to the council meetings. We are blessed by her dedication and countless hours in this "volunteer" position.

I do not know at this writing if the other members of the council who are eligible for a second term will seek re-election. I want to thank them for their work and I hope that they will allow their names to be considered for this work in our Synod.

Look around your congregation, cluster, and the Synod and raise up names to be considered for nomination for these various offices. This is the body that prepares the budget and proposes changes to the constitution and the policies of the Synod. The council shares in the planning and creativity and practicality on one team.

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The second team, no less important, is the ***Interfaith Task Force (ITF) to End Homelessness***. This team is addressing the faith communities, who are the heart of so many strong programs that already exist and, yet, who have the promise of a collective action that can truly bring joy to many more. The ELCA is represented on the ITF by Rev. Paul Benz (206-694-5772), Mark Snow (206-361-2144), and myself (425-867-9070). Bishop Chris Boerger is supporting this team and our efforts. We are still seeking ELCA representation for the ***Committee to End Homelessness.***

We ask for your prayerful response to homelessness and to housing issues. So many congregations in this Synod are already serving in marvelous ways.

Religious Leaders Join Together

On Energy and Climate Issues

Thirty-seven Washington state religious leaders recently joined together in a statement that called for energy security and climate protection. Together they wrote to Senator Patty Murray and Senator Maria Cantwell with specific proposals for "energy conservation, fuel efficiency, and alternate energy development to protect God's creation and God's children."

Bishop Martin Wells (EWA/ID) and Rev. Paul Benz (LPPO) were two of the thirty-seven signatures.

These Washington State signatures join more than 1,200 leaders nationally from major religious denominations who have written to every US Senator. For more information about this statement, go to the Washington Association of Churches website at www.thewac.org or call 206-625-9790.

Health Care Focus

Have you had a chance to review the first draft of the *Health, Healing and Health Care*? Do you want to share your response with others? Do you want to hear what others think of the first draft?

On Saturday, April 13, the ELCA will host a local hearing specifically to collect reactions to this first draft. This hearing will be held at the Columbia Center, Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma.

Registration will begin at 9 a.m. The morning will be given to presentations and discussion. Following lunch, there will be opportunity to provide comments on the proposed statement. Registration is $15, which includes lunch. You may register through the Office of Church Relations at PLU.

ELCA members are to offer their responses to this first draft by Sept. 1. A proposed statement is expected to be considered at the next assembly in August

Copies of the draft statement are available form Augsburg Fortress, or on line at www. elca.org/dcs/healthcare.

My Neighbors Faith and Mine—A Study Guide

In 1986 the World Council of Churches (WCC) developed a study guide called, *My Neighbors Faith and Mine: Theological Discoveries Through Interfaith Dialogue*.

Since then it has been translated into numerous languages and used widely and is now available on the internet.

This study guide is prepared in the hope that Christians would be challenged to seek new dimensions of their own faith and also to see their neighbors in a new light and learn to live with them in closer community. It is meant for Christians who live in religiously plural situations — and that's everywhere, in our day. It urges them to reflect on the theological significance of the faith and witness of their neighbors who are not Christians.

To access the on-line study guide go to : www.wcc-coe.org/wcc/what/interreligious/mfm-e.

Please, Pray for Peace

As we continue to hear and read in the media about the trouble in the Middle East and Jerusalem, please join in the **ecumenical prayer vigil** for the Christian communities in Jerusalem, for all those who are suffering in the Holy Land, for Palestinians and Israelis, and for peace in the Middle East and the world.

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Dare to Live God's Promise

Plan now to attend the 2002 Global Mission Events at one of two locations: July 18 - 21 at Hickory in North Carolina, or July 25-28 at Minneapolis, Minn.

All congregations received information about these dates in their January-February 2002 Action Packet. For more information go to www.elca.org/dgm/gme2002/index or call 1-800-638-3522.

A Walk Through The Old Testament

The Old Testament will be the focus of discovery and discussion, fun and fellowship for confirmation age youth (6th-8th graders) at this year's confirmation camp from July 9-11, 2002 at Trinity Lutheran College in Issaquah.

A Walk Through The Old Testament is designed to be both a content component of confirmation study as well as to provide a great experience for middle school youth groups. This event is designed for groups, so it is required that there is one adult counselor for every five youth. (Individual registrations are accepted. If you are registering as an individual, please call prior to sending registration form.)

Cost is $90 per person and includes room, board, and programs ($45 per chaperone). For more information, contact Sue Houglum at 425-961-5532 or email at houglum@tlc.edu. More information is available at www.tlc.edu.

Globalization and God

Cynthia Moe-Lobeda has written a new book called *Healing A Broken World: Globalization and God*. In this book, Cynthia shows how the advent of globalization places a new horizon on the spiritual quest but, at the same time, has caused an enervation of people's sense of moral agency. She is also the co-author of two volumes, *Saint Francis and the Foolishness of God* (1993) and *Say to This Mountain* (1996). She is the wife of Rev. Ron Moe-Lobeda, University, Seattle.

Women of the ELCA

Triennial Gathering

Gather with thousands of your Lutheran sisters from across the United States for worship, Bible study, workshops and on-site visits to exciting Christian ministries.

Women of the ELCA Fifth Triennial Gathering will be held from July 8-14, 2002, at the Pennsylvania Convention Center (and various hotels) in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Cost for the full week is $225 if paid on or before May 1, or $280 after May 1. The three-day registration includes all gathering activities on July 11, 12 and 13. Cost is $200 if paid on or before May 1, or $250 after May 1. Scholarships are available.

Registration information is available on-line at www.elca.org/wo; by telephone at 1-800-638-3522, ext. 2730; by fax at 773-380-2419; or by email at womnelca@elca.org.

Living Into A Cross-Cultural Church

Join the Lutheran Human Relations Association staff/facilitators for *Living Into a Cross-Cultural Church* from June 3-6 at Lutheran Theological Seminary in Gettysburg, Penn. Teams will engage with scripture, deepen awareness and understanding of cross-cultural issues, and develop skills and strategies to use in our congregation and community. Contact LHRA at 1-414-536-0585 or vanguard@lhra.org.

Lutheran Men To Discover "Blueprints for Living"

Men of all ages will come together to discover God's blueprint—God's plan—for their lives and ministry at the *2002 Blueprints for Living* Lutheran Men's Gathering in San Antonio, July 26-28.

"The purpose of the *Blueprints for Living* Lutheran Men's Gathering will be for men of all ages to gather and be 'rooted and established in love so that they might have the power to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ,' as the Bible says, and leave empowered to serve Christ in their family, church and community," said Lutheran Men in Mission Director Doug Haugen.

Featured speakers and musicians include: Tony Campolo who is one of the most sought after, dynamic Christian speakers in the world today; Millard Fuller who is the founder and president of Habitat for Humanity International; Peter Mayer who sees his ministry in the world of rock music, and beyond; Tony Melendez who was born without arms and who plays the guitar with his feet; Margarita Martinez is the bishop of the ELCA Caribbean Synod; and Rick Barnes who has been coach of the Texas Longhorns basketball team since 1998.

Registration information for the gathering is available on-line at www.elca.org/lmm/lmmgathr or by calling 1-800-638-3522.

To What Is God Calling You?

A Discernment Retreat

Thoughts of full-time ministry in the church do not go away.

It can be an unsettling question. The more unsettling this question is the more likely it is the time to wrestle with the question and perhaps God.

To What is God Calling You? A Retreat To More Clearly Hear God's Call is designed to help you or someone you know who is wrestling with this question. The retreat will be held May 7 through 19 at Triangle Lake Center, Blachly, OR (west of Junction City and Northwest of Eugene).

Discernment involves prayer, personal reflection, conversation with others, counsel from God, friends, the community of faith. The retreat is designed to be an extension of the wrestling with call that you have already done, yet gives you a new context, new friends, and perhaps new insight and direction for your response to what God is calling you to do.

Registration deadline is on or before May 6. Cost is $165.

The retreat is organized by the Discernment Team of Region 1. For more information contact Rev. Neal Buckaloo at 509-927-4232 or Erma Lee at 206-624-0093.

The Vitamin Cs of Couple Care

Care for your relationship is critical! A Couples Workshop will be held on Friday, April 19, and Saturday, April 20, at Grace, Bellevue. This eight-hour workshop "*The Vitamin C's of Couple Care*, will help you to develop skills and strategies to further the health of your relationship.

Presenters are Joan Niehau, ARNP, and Paul Shoup, Pastoral Psychotherapist with Lutheran Counseling Network. Together they have more than 75 years of working with couples and nearly 80 years of marriage.

The workshop will be held from 7 to 9 p.m. on Friday and from 9 a.m to 4 p.m. on Saturday. Cost is $150 per couple, deposit of $50 is required.

Women's Caucus Meet

This Far by Faith: The Story of a New African-American Hymnal will be the program of the Puget Sound Chapter of the Lutheran Women's Caucus beginning at 11:45 a.m. on Saturday, April 6, at Central, Seattle (11th Ave and East Olive).

Presenter is Rev. Karen Ward, staff member at Holy Trinity, Mercer Island, and formerly a staff member in the Division for Congregational Ministries, ELCA. As always, the meeting will begin with shared finger food and participants are asked to bring their own cup or mug for beverages.

For more information, contact Sarah W. (Sally) Wing at 425-747-5924.

Interfaith Response to Homelessness

by Bill Kirlin-Hackett, Interfaith Task Force to End Homelessness

In the 1990 ELCA Message on *Homelessness: A Renewal of Commitment*, it states, "As long as there are people without housing, Christians who have dwellings are called upon to assist homeless persons to provide for their basic needs... People are working to provide transitional and permanent housing, including programs that encourage and support home ownership. What does your congregation do? What might it do?"

With that purpose in mind, a coalition of persons of faith sponsored a day long event in April 2001 at St. Mark's Cathedral in Seattle that was called, "Creating the Political Will to End Homelessness." As a significant part of that event, which attracted 350 people including the Seattle mayor and police chief, a statement was issued by executive leaders and bishops of the King County area religious community. Bishop Donald Maier signed the document on behalf of the NW WA Synod (please read it in full on the Synod website). The sum of the affirmations and goals in that statement commits us as Lutherans, along with other people of faith, to work together in new ways to end homelessness, improve the availability of transitional housing, and help develop affordable permanent housing.

From the Political Will event two teams were created. The first team is the ***Committee to End Homelessness in King County***. It is the hands-on team that will create solutions. It includes municipal, business, nonprofit, and religious minds, all aiming toward a common goal. It is a first in this area to coalesce such creativity and practicality on one team.

The second team, no less important, is the ***Interfaith Task Force (ITF) to End Homelessness***. This team is addressing the faith communities, who are the heart of so many strong programs that already exist and, yet, who have the promise of a collective action that can truly bring joy to many more. The ELCA is represented on the ITF by Rev. Paul Benz (206-694-5772), Mark Snow (206-361-2144), and myself (425-867-9070). Bishop Chris Boerger is supporting this team and our efforts. We are still seeking ELCA representation for the ***Committee to End Homelessness.***

In early June, the ITF will sponsor a second Political Will Conference on a Sunday afternoon. Please watch for more details in future Synod newsletters and on the Synod's website.

The other early task of the ITF is to encourage renewal of the Seattle Housing Levy, which is a significant source of funding for current and expanded housing needs within Seattle.

We ask for your prayerful response to homelessness and to housing issues. So many congregations in this Synod are already serving in marvelous ways. These stories need to be told, to teach and encourage others to the power God is giving them every day to serve. We are ready to hear from you, to support you, and to help you serve. God promises the strength we need when we need it, and so as people of faith, rise, shine.

Come And Learn—Global Warming

by Jeanne Rehwinkel, Task Force Coordinator

On Saturday, May 4, the Synod Task Force on Global Climate Change will offer an orientation and training workshop to initiate implementation of the 2001 Synod Assembly Resolution, SA2001.11. The workshop will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Prince of Peace, Everett.

True to the theme, *Global Climate Change: A Faithful and Practical Response*, this training event is targeted to congregational leaders: social justice, education, stewardship, youth ministries and facilities management.

The workshop will focus on practical solutions based on actual case studies and will include examples of ongoing local ministries of creation-care congregations. One local congregation saved $1200 a year on their power bill by changing their lighting. Their action has developed into a revolving loan fund, which the Synod makes available to other congregations to do the same. In response to the universal cry, "The problem is too big for one person to have any impact," nonpolluting, energy-saving suggestions for individuals, families and households will be addressed.

The greatest challenges **and** opportunities for us lie in the choices we make as individuals, as a nation and as the people of God in the production and consumption of energy. These activities account for the vast majority of greenhouse gases in the earth's atmosphere. For the faith community the threat of global climate change is an issue of social, political and economic justice not simply environmental stewardship. Our children's future is at stake.

Complimentary and Alternative Medicine

Puget Sound Parish Nurse Ministries will hold its annual Education Seminar beginning at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, May 4, at Trinity Lutheran Church, Lynnwood.

The seminar, titled *Complimentary and Alternative Medicine—What is it? Why the interest?* will be led by two keynote speakers: Donal O'Mathuna and Rev. June Eastwold. O'Mathuna, co-author of Alternative Medicine: The Christian Handbook, will describe the broad field of Complimentary and Alternative Medicine (CAM) and discuss the categories of therapies. Rev. Eastworld, author of Read My Tail: Testimony of a Terrier named Brandy, will speak on the healing elements of worship.

In addition to the two keynote speakers there will be eight workshops with relevant and useful topics for parish nurses, clergy, chaplains, lay health promoters, health educators, and other health professionals.

The mission of the Puget Sound Parish Nurse Ministries is to educate and support parish nurses and health ministers who promote wholeness of body, mind, and spirit within their faith communities.

For registration information, call 425-259-5809 or email at carolms@msn.com.

New Resource Video

To reserve these resources, contact the Region 1 Resource Center at 206-755-5831, ext. 100. Resource Center hours are Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The Ten Commandments: A Foundation of Life asserts the fact that God's Ten Commandments are as relevant and practical today as they were thousands of years ago.

Presented by the ever-popular Walter Wangerin Jr., this video will further challenge you to put the Commandments into practice and to shape a personal life that is characterized with strength, structure and integrity. The discussion guide provides questions to encourage conversation after each segment is viewed. This video can be used with high-school youth, young adults or adults. Ask for V-1190.

Islam is a video resource that goes to the heart of the matter as Hans Kung maps out the history of Islam, from its origin to the present day. Ask for V-1198.

World Religions: Islam the Faith and the People is a classic in the Resource Center. This video is from the series World Religions and presents the history of Islam and its influence. Divided into eight topics, programs include: Islam in the world today; The Prophet, Mohammed; The Five Pillars of Islam; The Mosque; The Crusades; The Art and Architecture of Islam; Colonialism in the Islamic world; and Islam's influence on the West. The video is 22 minutes long. Ask for V-627.

Summer Camp at Lutherwood

Get ready to pack your bags. Summer is almost here. Come join the fun in 2002 at Camp Lutherwood as campers hike, swim, canoe, kayak, bike, play and, of course, learn about God. Camps include a day camp for children entering grades 1-6 who are not quite ready to stay overnight. Other camps include: white water canoeing, bike the San Juan Islands, build a boat, write a song or be a star in your own play, and much more. For more information about the many choices of camps, go to www.camplutherwood.org or call 360-734-7652.

Spirit Lodge Dedication

Dayton Edmonds, a native American storyteller, and special music by *Singout* will be part of the dedication of the Spirit Lodge at Camp Lutherwood on June 1. A family potluck picnic will begin the dedication at noon.

The Spirit Lodge was originally envisioned two years ago by Pastor Lou Accola, Wooden Cross in Woodinville; Alan Rogstad, Camp Lutherwood Executive Director; and Bishop Chris Boerger. The Spirit Lodge was conceived as a cornerstone project for Camp Lutherwood to replace an old fishing cabin.

For more information, contact Camp Lutherwood at 360-734-7652.

Youth Gatherings

"face 2 face get connected"

The Western States Youth Gathering will be held July 1 through 7, 2002, in San Jose, Calif. There will be awesome mass gatherings, enthusiastic speakers and lively music. This gathering is for youth in 9-12 grades. Cost is $224 per person, plus $120 for hotel cost per night per room. For more information go to www.wsyg.com or call 1-888-852-FACE.

Do Life! Ubuntu!

It's not too early to be thinking about the 2003 ELCA Youth Gathering in Atlanta, Ga. The dates are July 16-20 and July 23-27. The theme for the Gathering is *Do Life! Ubuntu!.* This theme is centered in the concept of reconciliation and assumes God's intention for the interconnectedness of the cosmos. Ubuntu comes from the Nguni group of languages spoken in sub-Saharan Africa.

ELCA congregations received a packet of information in late January. Registration materials will be mailed in April. Cost is $224 per person, which includes all the program materials and secondary insurance. Housing and meals are not included. More information is at www.elca.org/gathering or call 1-800-638-3522, ext. 2100.

Office Space Available

Lutheran Campus Ministry/Covenant House at the University of Washington has three offices available for local non-profits. Are you looking for office space or know someone who is? This is a great space for an administrative office. If interested, please contact Rev. Scott Postlewait at: 4525 19th Ave NE, Seattle, WA 98105; 206-524-7900; or chscott@drizzle.com.

Evergreen Youth Television

The vision of Evergreen Youth Television (EYT) is to focus faith, values, and technology through the perspectives of young people. This intensive workshop teaches youth from across the country to produce videos from a faith and values perspective. Video experience is not required. Selection is based on a written application and written recommendations. Some scholarship assistance is available. For more information, call the EYT voice mail at 1-800-878-7280 or go to www.evergreentv.com.

LOGOS For Youth

Spanaway Lutheran is hosting a youth ministry workshop this August. This three-day workshop is centered around the LOGOS Leadership Training School. Learn more about LOGOS at one of two introduction seminars: 1 to 3 p.m. on Monday, April 8, at Lacey Presbyterian Church in Lacey; or 2 to 4 p.m. on Friday, April 19, at Pilgrim Lutheran Church in Puyallup. For information about these two introduction seminars contact Judy Kent at 253-848-4071; or for more information about LOGOS, visit www.logos-system.org

Within Our Family

Within Our Family *depends upon you–not only for prayers, but also your prayer requests. Please contact the Synod office with any additions to this column.*

To Keep in Our Prayers....

† **Rev. Jim Schoeld (ret.) and his wife Rachel** who were in a serious one-car accident last summer. Continued prayers for their recovery.

† **The Rev. Doug Langholz** as he deals with progressive ALS. He is on disability.

† **The Rev. Robert Moylan (ret.)** as he deals with progressive muscular dystrophy.

Congratulations...

† **Connie McConnell,** who left her position for the Church Council of Greater Seattle to become director of congregation ministries at her home congregation, Saint Andrew's, Bellevue. Connie recently completed her degree with highest honors in Christian education from Trinity Lutheran College, Issaquah.

† Former **Bishop Don and Sylvia Maier** will be commissioned at the 8:30 and 11:00 a.m. services on Sunday, April 7, at Phinney Ridge, Seattle. Rev. Maier has received a call from the ELCA Division for Global Mission to oversee Western and Eastern Europe.

Hammond Pump Organ

Hammond Electric Pump Organ with echo box, model #H-111 in mahogany. Two 61-note manual keyboards. 25-note pedal Clavier. Overhanging keys. Many more wonderful features. $450. Contact Jack Wood at 206-363-4835.

News and Notes

❖ The NWWA Synod staff is pleased to welcome **Elaine Harrison as Office Assistant.** Her first day of employment was March 1. (She had been the temporary office assistant after Linda Albert Young resigned in October.) Elaine brings a wealth of experience with strong people, organization, and administrative skills. She is a member of Faith, Seattle, where she supports and coordinates committees. Most recently, she has taken time for personal growth and renewal. Elaine worked for 18 years for the City of Seattle in the Seattle Center Dept. She has a B.S and an M.S. degree. Please welcome Elaine to the team.

❖ The Board of Directors at **LOMA** recently voted to take steps, over an extended period of time, to close the Center. In addition, the Board of Directors voted to eliminate the position of Executive Director as of February 28th. This is the position that **Patrick Brady** has held since 1995. You can now reach Patrick Brady at: 2335 NW 87th St, Seattle, WA 98117; or email phbrady@msn.com.

❖ **Pastor Markus Schoch from Samara, Russia,** visited the Seattle area in February. Pastor Schoch is pastor of St. George Evangelical Lutheran Church of Samara, sister church to Immanuel, Seattle. This is an unprecedented time in the history of the Christian church in Russia and he shared his story with the congregation at Immanuel.

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Public Policy Update

World has developed an insert for your use. For more information or for the bulletin insert, go to www.bread.org/issues/offering.

- The ELCA website is always packed full with information—www.elca.org then link to Division for Church in Society; or go to the website for Lutheran Office of Governmental Affairs at www.loga.org.
- This is a good time to study/discuss the ELCA Social Statement on Economic Justice: *Sufficient, Sustainable Livelihood For All (www.elca.org/dcs/economiclife.)* The Conference of Bishop's statement on *Wealth & Poverty* (www.elca.org/ob/wealth) that you can easily copy and put in Sunday bulletins and the ELCA's *Principles For Welfare Reform* (www.elca.org/dcs/welfare) are two other resources.

Housing Needed for Intern

The Lutheran Public Policy could use your help in finding housing for an intern who will be coming from PLTS in late August. The intern will work with St. John United and LPPO as a shared internship. If you know of any housing available for a single person please contact me at 206-694-5772 or email at pbenz@lcsnw.org; or Pastor Carol Jensen at 206-784-1040.

Blessings in your Easter journey.

Soundings

News and information for pastors, associates in ministry, lay leaders and ecumenical friends of the

Northwest Washington Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)

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The Rev. Wm Chris Boerger, Bishop
The Rev. Janice E Nesse, Assistant to the Bishop
Donene Blair, Executive Assistant
Elaine Harrison, Office Assistant
Margit Peiffle, Communication Specialist

(Permission to copy information in Soundings for use in congregations is granted.)

The deadline for the May 2002 issue of Soundings and The Spirit is Monday, April 1. Send information to: Margit Peiffle, 21721 88th Ave. NE, Arlington, WA 98223; email: peifflepr@aol.com; or fax: 360-435-5955.